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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(✓) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part (✓) In Full
() Classify as __ () Extend as __ () Downgrade to __
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason ___

[redacted] **DECAPTIONED**

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 7/11/00 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM AR SW
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE DAGMAR HAGELIN CASE

REF: STOCKHOLM 2917

1. [redacted] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SWEDISH EMBASSY COLLEAGUES ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN HAGELIN CASE REPORTED REFTEL.

3. OUR FIRST THOUGHT WAS TO DISCOUNT PERSITZA'S STRANGE ACCOUNT. WE STILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS NOT SHOWN ITSELF RELUCTANT TO DISPOSE OF UNWANTED CLANDESTINE PRISONERS WOULD STOP SHORT OF GETTING RID OF DAGMAR HAGELIN. SWEDISH COLLEAGUES, HOWEVER, HAVE GIVEN US SEVERAL DETAILS WHICH MAKE PERSITZA'S ACCOUNT MORE PLAUSIBLE:

A) PERSITZA APPARENTLY HAD NO IDEA OF GOING TO ANY EMBASSY TO REPORT KNOWLEDGE OF A SWEDISH GIRL DAGMAR. HE MENTIONED THE STORY CONVERSATIONALLY WITH PETER STEELE OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WHILE ON OTHER BUSINESS, AND IT WAS STEELE WHO SUGGESTED THAT HE VISIT THE SWEDISH EMBASSY
[redacted]

[redacted]

HERE.

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B. PERSITZA COULD BE TAKEN AS JEWISH--ALTHOUGH HE DISCLAIMS THIS--AND HIS ACCOUNT OF HASSLING HE GOT AT THE ARMY BASE IN MERCEDES FOR NOT HAVING PROPER DRAFT REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS, WHICH RESULTED IN HIS BEING KEPT JAILED FOR SEVERAL DAYS, SEEMS PLAUSIBLE.

C) PERSITZA IDENTIFIED THE PERSON WHO TOLD HIM ABOUT DAGMAR AS A MR. "DEVONE", WHO IN TURN IDENTIFIED THE PLACE AT WHICH "THE SWEDISH GIRL NAMED DAGMAR" WAS IMPRISONED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT APPEARS TO BE MAGDELENA PRISON BETWEEN LA PLATA AND MAR DEL PLATA.

D) "DEVONE" GAVE A DESCRIPTION OF THE "SWEDISH GIRL NAMED DAGMAR" WHICH COULD RESEMBLE THE HAGELIN GIRL. "DEVONE" ADDED THAT ACCORDING TO HIS WIFE THE GIRL WEIGHED ONLY 35 KILOS, WHICH CONCERNS THE SWEDISH EMBASSY HERE OVER THE POSSIBLE HEALTH OF THE GIRL THEY SEEK.

4. ON ANOTHER FRONT, THE NEW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR HERE AND DAGMAR HAGELIN'S FATHER--WHO HAS RETURNED TO ARGENTINA AGAIN TO SEEK NEWS OF HIS DAUGHTER--HAVE RECEIVED SIGNALS FROM SEVERAL RANKING OFFICIALS WITH WHOM THEY HAVE TALKED THAT THERE MAY BE ROOM FOR "A NEGOTIATION" OR "AN ARRANGEMENT" IN THE HAGELIN CASE.

5. THE SWEDES ARE PLAYING IT VERY CAREFULLY. THE AMBASSADOR HAS NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, TOLD EVEN MR. HAGELIN ABOUT PERSITZA'S STRANG STORY. THE SWEDES ARE CONSIDERING TAKING UP THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO NEXT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS OFFICE HERE, WHICH VISITS MAGDELENA PRISON FROM TIME TO TIME AND MIGHT BE IN A [redacted]

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POSITION TO HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THIS MATTER. THEY FEAR HOWEVER THAT ANY SIGNAL OF THEIR BELIEF THAT DAGMAR IS ALIVE AT MAGDELENA MIGHT DOOM HER. THEY MAY SIMPLY WAIT UNTIL THESE PROMISED "NEGOTIATIONS" REVEAL MORE ABOUT THE MATTER.

6. THERE IS NO ROLE FOR US HERE EXCEPT, POSSIBLY, TO IDENTIFY PERSITZA TO THE SWEDES IF HE IS A PERSON KNOWN TO U.S. AUTHORITIES FOR THREATS, PROVOCATIONS, OR EXTRAORDINARY TESTIMONY ELSEWHERE. IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL FOR THE SWEDES TO HAVE PERSITZA'S ADDRESS IN THE UNITED STATES, IF THIS IS AVAILABLE AND CAN BE RELEASED. THEY

LOST CONTACT WITH HIM HERE AND ONLY PERSITZA CAN PUT SWEDISH OFFICIALS IN TOUCH WITH "DEVONE"--SHOULD THIS COURSE EVER APPEAR REASONABLE TO FOLLOW. PLEASE ADVISE.
CASTRO

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